

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) Method for division of animals into groups and transfer of groups of animals to a stunning apparatus (3), the method comprising:

a) driving animals ~~[[in]]~~ by driving a gate (15) along an oblong corridor section (10) from an entrance end towards an exit end and past an open division gate (12), which is placed between the entrance end and the exit end, the driving gate (15) being moved in the longitudinal direction of the corridor section (10) between a starting point at the entrance end of the corridor section to a position at the division gate, the division gate being placed in such a way that the corridor area (10b) between the division gate (12) and the exit end has room for a number of animals corresponding to the group size,

b) closing the division gate (12) when a number of animals corresponding to the group size have passed,

c) driving the group of animals by one of a gate device placed at the corridor section (10), a traveling sliding gate (14), or a traveling elevating gate movable in the corridor area (10b) from a position at the exit end into a transfer section (16), placed in continuation of the corridor section (10) at the exit end of the section when the transfer section (16) is ready to receive a group of animals, which transfer section has room for a number of animals corresponding to the group size and has connection with the entrance to the stunning apparatus,

d) closing the access from the corridor section (10) to the transfer section (16) ,

e) driving the group of animals in the transfer section (16) into the stunning apparatus (3) when this is ready to receive a group of animals, and

f) repeating the process steps a) to e) as long as there are animals in the corridor area (10a) between the entrance end and the division gate (12), the division gate (12) being opened between each cycle.

16. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 15, and wherein the transfer section (16) has a rectangular shape with a short side placed opposite the exit end of the corridor section (10) and a long side placed opposite the entrance to the stunning apparatus, and further comprising moving a movable wall (18) at the other long side over to the long side placed opposite the entrance to the stunning apparatus in connection with process step e).

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 15, further comprising partially opening the division gate (12) to a position which allow animals to walk one by one through the passage formed by the opening process when the number of animals on the corridor area (10a) between the entrance end and the division gate exceeds the number of animals in a group.

19. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 15, further comprising driving a flock of animals to be divided in groups into the corridor area (10a) between the entrance and the division gate and closing an entrance gate (11) in the entrance end of the corridor section when all animals in the flock have entered the area ~~partially opening the division gate (12) to a position which allows animals to walk one by one through the passage formed by the opening process when the number of animals on the corridor area (10a) between the entrance end and the division gate exceeds the number of animals in a group.~~

20. (Canceled)